

REMARKS

Claims 19-34 and 47-50 are pending; claims 23-34 and 47-50 are rejected; and claims 19-22 are allowed in this application. Claims 23-25 and 47 are cancelled; and claims 26, 32, 33, 34, 48 and 50 are amended hereby.

Further to the Response filed on August 2, 2007, Applicants have amended the application to place the claims in condition for allowance so that the application can proceed to issue. The cancellation of independent claims 23 and 47 is done without prejudice and Applicants continue to hold that the claims are distinguished over the prior art.

Responsive to the rejection of claims 23-34 and 47-50 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,985,073 (Kimura et al.) in view of U.S. Patent No. 2,887,964 (Griner), Applicants have cancelled claims 23-25 and 47 and amended the remaining dependent claims to depend from allowed claim 19, thereby placing the claims in condition for allowance, which is hereby respectfully requested.

No new matter or issues have been introduced by changing the dependency of some of the dependent claims. Except for minor changes during prosecution the dependent claims have remained unchanged since the original submission of the application. The elements of the dependent claims that remain are equally applicable to each of the independent claims when the application was filed and now that they have been made to depend from allowed claim 19, all of the claims are in condition for allowance, which is hereby respectfully requested.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the continued indication that claims 19-22 remain allowed, and in order to place this application in condition for allowance Applicants have cancelled claims 23-25 and 47 and amended the dependent claims therefrom to depend from allowed claim 19.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that no combination of the cited references teaches, discloses or suggests the subject matter of the amended claims. The pending claims are therefore in condition for allowance, and Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of all rejections and allowance of the claims.

In the event Applicants have overlooked the need for an extension of time, an additional extension of time, payment of fee, or additional payment of fee, Applicants hereby conditionally petition therefor and authorizes that any charges be made to Deposit Account No. 20-0095, TAYLOR & AUST, P.C.

Should any question concerning any of the foregoing arise, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (260) 897-3400.

Respectfully submitted,

/Max W. Garwood/

Max W. Garwood
Registration No. 47,589

Attorney for Applicant

MWG/dc/bd

TAYLOR & AUST, P.C.
142 S. Main Street
P.O. Box 560
Avilla, IN 46710
Telephone: 260-897-3400
Facsimile: 260-897-9300

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